

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated October 7, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-11 are pending. No new matter is added.

The Applicant's undersigned originally conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner on October 16, 2002 concerning a restriction election directed to Group I – claims 1-5 and 9; Group II – claims 7 and 8; Group III – claims 10 and 11. At that time the Examiner took the position that the groups of claims were directed toward different inventive concepts and requested that one invention be elected for prosecution. On October 28, 2002 a telephone call was made to the Examiner electing Group I directed to claims 1-6 and 9 with traverse (solely because it was a telephone election). On October 29, 2002, the undersigned received a telephone call from the Examiner confirming the election of Group I directed to claims 1-6 and 9.

The present Election/Restriction dated October 7, 2003 sets forth the same restriction and group elections.

In view of the remarks and the prior election, Applicants respectfully request examination and an action on the merits on claims 1-6 and 9.

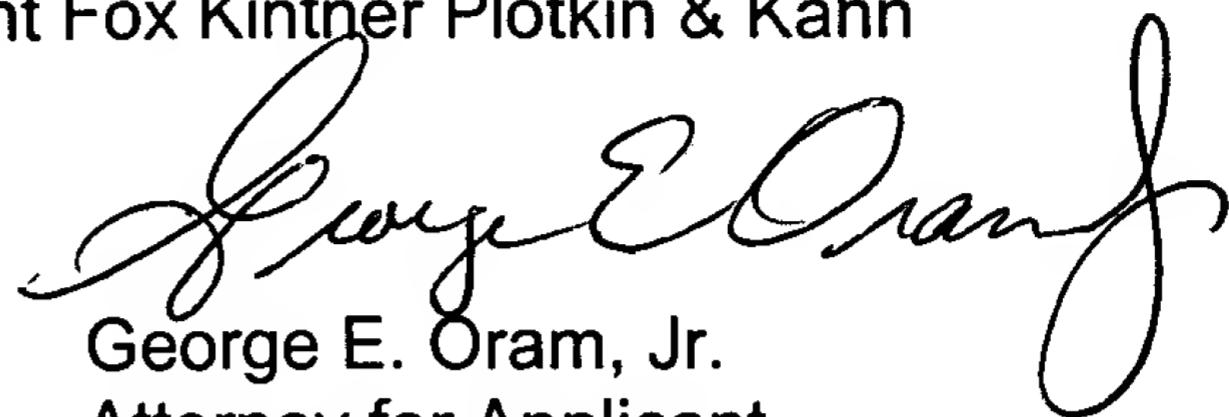
Should the Examiner believe the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge

payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to  
Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn



George E. Oram, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 27,931

Customer No. 004372  
1050 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Tel: (202) 857-6261  
Fax: (202) 638-4810

GEO/bgk